

Mississippi Headwaters Board

2014 Annual Report



PROTECTING THE FIRST 400 MILES

2014 Accomplishments

Action For Protection

- * Held conferences with County Commissioners, City representatives, local resource professionals, MHB Legislative delegation, and federal and state agency personnel to explain the sub-watershed prioritization methodology that the MHB is using in the Mississippi river corridor. These conferences informed attendees about how the MHB is working to protect the Mississippi River, and how they are working to place this methodology within the county comprehensive water plans.
- * Submitted Resolution to the Department of Natural Resources and University of MN to request an acceleration of the County Geological Atlas program in the MHB counties.
- * Conducted monthly board meetings to certify zoning activities occurring within the Mississippi Headwaters Board corridor in order to protect the degradation of the Mississippi River.



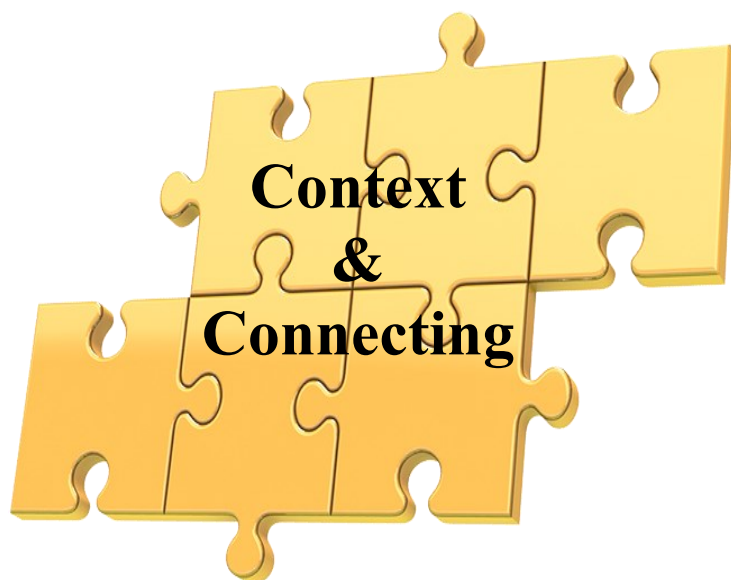
Resource & Program Development

- * Received grant from the Pollution Control Agency and developed a relationship with a private engineering firm for watershed pollutant monitoring in sub-watersheds that drain to the Mississippi. Water monitoring will begin in 2015.
- * Developed priorities and strategies for the MHB corridor to help lead local resource professionals into implementation efforts.
- * Submitted Clean Water Legacy grant to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to help cities identify pollution prevention practices and measurable goals that will help reduce or eliminate stormwater pollutants that flow into the Mississippi River.
- * Established a sub-committee to develop a land protection strategy for the Mississippi River. This will result a unified strategy for protecting the Mississippi River between the MHB counties ,Department of Natural Resources, Mississippi Headwaters Board, and other implementing organizations. It will also help leverage Outdoor Heritage Fund grants in 2015.
- * Developed a Standard Operating Procedure for cities that annex land within the corridor. This led to a consistent process for cities to follow.



DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr recognizing the accomplishments of the Mississippi Headwaters Board.





Collaborative Accomplishments

- * Accepted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committee and developed interest between NRCS, Board of Water & Soil Resources, and Camp Ripley to leverage funding for existing program. This led to an application to the Federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Sentinel Landscape Initiative.
- * Worked with the North Central Conservation Roundtable (NCCR) to produce a habitat and water quality prioritization model that can be utilized as a decision support tool for implementing habitat initiatives.
- * Working with the Mississippi River Parkway Commission to develop a Great River Road Corridor Management Plan to promote, preserve, and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley. This plan will develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road, an open up the opportunity for federal funding.
- * Submitted funding requests to a variety of private and public organizations to create awareness and support about the Mississippi Headwaters Board and their efforts to protect the Mississippi River.
- * Worked with Representative Ron Kresha, Camp Ripley, and other conservation organizations to provide comment on a Sentinel Landscape bill that will be presented to the MN legislature in 2015.
- * Collaborated with the MN Forest Resource Council and provided comment on a Landscape Stewardship Plan to help forest stewardship plan writers protect the Mississippi River at a Landscape scale.
- * Participated in the coordination of a Multi-County Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness campaign with Mississippi Headwaters Board Counties to produce a consistent media message to recreational boat users that will help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

MHB BOARD

Back Row (L to R): Davin Tinquist, Neal Gaalswyk– Chair, Kevin Maurer– Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Thiede, Brian Napstad, Dean Newland– Vice Chair, Cal Johannsen,

Front Row (L to R): Jack Frost , Pam Kichler- Admin. Specialist, Tim Terrill- Executive Director, Bob Lessard– DNR Liaison.



Partners in Conservation

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
US Army Corps of Engineers
USFS Chippewa National Forest
Department of Transportation
National Park Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service

State

Board of Water and Soil Resources
Department of Natural Resources
Outdoor Heritage Council
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota State Archeology
Minnesota Reference Library
MN Pollution Control Agency
MN Great River Road
MN Forrest Resource Counsel

County

County Commissioners
Planning and Zoning Offices
County Highway Departments
County Land Departments
County Historical Societies
Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Camp Ripley

Regional

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Dept. of Resource Management
Mississippi River Parkway Commission
University of MN Extension

Other Local Governments

City of Cass Lake
City of Grand Rapids
City of Bemidji
City of Little Falls
City of Walker
City of Palisade
City of Cohasset
City of LaPrairie
City of Aitkin
City of Riverton
City of Brainerd
City of Baxter
Greater Bemidji Area Joint Powers Board
Ten Lake Township

Organizations

MN Initiative Foundations—Central Region
Widseth Smith Nolting
Bemidji Electric
RESPEC
Trust for Public Land
Leech Lake Watershed Foundation